IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CANT: Todd Martin

DATE: February 13, 2006

SERIAL NO.: 10/671,137

GROUP ART UNIT: 3676

FILED: September 25, 2003

EXAMINER: Walker, Zakiya Nicole

FOR: "Gauge Carrier Sub"

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A03171US (98799.1)

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RESPONSE

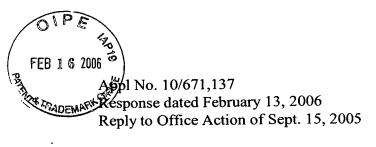
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2005, but which response was reset on September 15, 2005 because of Hurricane Katrina. A shortened statutory period was set to expire three months, making a response due by December 15, 2005. It is believed that the period for reply will be reset shortly (Applicant has filed a request that it be reset) so that this response will be timely filed. However, if Applicant's request to reset is denied, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response by two months (from December 15, 2005 to February 15, 2006), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0694 the extension fee.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows (additions are underlined and deletions are shown in strikeout):



That being case, applicant would assert that the claims are allowable over the prior art as cited by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory C. Smith, Reg. No. 29,441

Charles C. Garvey, Jr., Reg. No. 27,889

Seth M. Nehrbass, Reg. No. 31,281

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 13th day of February, 2006.

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